

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Smith and Primary Examiner Marschel for their time, helpful suggestions and recommendations during the personal interview on June 10, 2004, in which the outstanding rejections were discussed in relation to the pending claims. Applicant also wishes to thank Examiner Smith and Primary Examiner Marschel for helping to clarify the issues in the Office Action. As a result, Applicant submits this response.

Interview Summary

Primary Examiner Ardin Marschel, Examiner Carolyn L. Smith, and Applicant's representatives, Andrew T. Karnakis, Esq. and Michael J. Bastian, Esq., participated in the personal interview of June 10, 2004. Ex. Smith and Primary Ex. Marschel and Applicant's representatives discussed then pending claims 1-29, in view of the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102 and 103, as well as possible amendments and U.S. Patent No. 6,017,693 to Yates, III et al., ("Yates"); agreement was not reached.

Status of the claims

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application. Claims 30-33 have been previously withdrawn from consideration and claims 1-29 have been examined. Applicant hereby amends claims 1, ⁹8, 17, 18, 19, 23 and 26, and cancels without prejudice claims 8 and 25. After entry of this paper claims 1-7, 9-24, and 26-29 remain pending for examination.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant has amended claim 1. Support for the amendments to claim 1 is found at least at page 3, lines 15-16 and 24-26; page 19, line 21 to page 21, line 4; and page 33, line 28 to page 34, line 1; and original claim 8. Accordingly, the amendment to claim 1 adds no new matter.

Applicant has amended claims 17, 18, and 19 to further clarify their dependency from claim 1. Support for the amendments to claim 17 is found at least at page 29, lines 12-15; page 31, lines 1-6; and page 31, line 23, to page 32, line 14. Support for the amendments to claim 18 is found at least at page 29, lines 12-15; page 31, lines 1-22. Support for the amendments to claim 19 is found at least at page 29, lines 12-15; page 31, lines 1-6; and page 33, lines 1-27. Accordingly, the amendments to claims 11, 17, 18 and 19 add no new matter.